

# CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE: AN AMERICAN ALPHABET

---



Teacher's Guide

A six-poster set from Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.

---

# CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE: AN AMERICAN ALPHABET

---

**Poster Copy:**  
Daniel DiPrima

**Poster Photography:**  
Skot Weidemann

ISBN 1-55933-103-X  
©1995 Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.



---

## INTRODUCTION

By the year 2020, one out of every two people in this country will be a person of color. As society becomes more multicultural, children need to develop sensitivities to cultures other than their own. Children also need exposure to information about their own ethnic and cultural backgrounds in order to grow in self-awareness and self-pride.

### GOALS

The goals of *Cultural Rainbow: An American Alphabet*, a poster set and teacher's guide, are to help students understand and appreciate the rich diversity of our multicultural society and to foster feelings of self-esteem and ethnic pride. This poster set, with its variety of images, and the teacher's guide, filled with reading, writing and art activities, make learning about various cultures easy and fun.

When children learn to appreciate other cultures, they begin to understand other perspectives. They simultaneously develop awareness of themselves and of their own heritage. This process not only fosters acceptance and tolerance of differences, it also helps preserve the rich cultural heritage of our multiethnic society.

### AUDIENCE

Activities are written on two levels. Level One activities are written for use in grades 1-4, Level Two for grades 4-7. However, teachers can easily adapt any of the activities to suit students at any grade level.

## CONTENTS

### 1) MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS WORKSHEETS

On pages 3-6 you will find Level One reproducible worksheets. Level Two worksheets can be found on pages 8-10. The worksheets are designed to show the contributions of diverse cultures to our society.

### 2) MULTICULTURAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This guide contains 40 different ideas — 20 on each of two learning levels — designed to motivate students to enhance their knowledge and sensitivity about our diverse society through reading, thinking, sharing, writing, research, acting and drawing activities. Activities for Level One can be found on pages 12-14. Level Two activities are on pages 15-17,

## Read All About Us

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*There are many picture books that show children who are Latino, Asian American, African American, Native American and European American. To find these books all you have to do is look. Go to the library and find a good picture book about each of these ethnic groups. Then fill in the list. Share your list with friends, classmates and family.*

**A Book About...**

**Title and Author**

Latinos

\_\_\_\_\_

Asian Americans

\_\_\_\_\_

African Americans

\_\_\_\_\_

Native Americans

\_\_\_\_\_

European Americans

\_\_\_\_\_

*After looking at these books, you will notice that people and families of all different ethnic groups have much more about them that is the same than is different.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*Everyone wears clothes. People wear clothes to keep warm or to stay cool. Below is a list of clothes worn by people from different parts of the world. Sort the clothes by writing each item of clothing on the chart under the part of the body it is worn on. If you are not sure about a piece of clothing, look it up in the dictionary.*

- kimono
- sombrero
- sari
- turban
- tam
- sandals
- mittens
- parka
- boots
- snowshoes
- serape
- blue jeans
- sweater
- socks
- T-shirt
- gloves

Head	Body	Hands	Feet

## Let's Get Dressed — Word Search

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TAM	BOOTS	TURBAN	GLOVES
SWEATER	BLUE JEANS	PARKA	KIMONO
T-SHIRT	MITTENS	SNOWSHOES	SARI
SOCKS	SARAPE	SANDALS	SOMBRERO

Scattered in the word search below are the clothes listed above. You might find the words going across or down. Circle the clothes words.

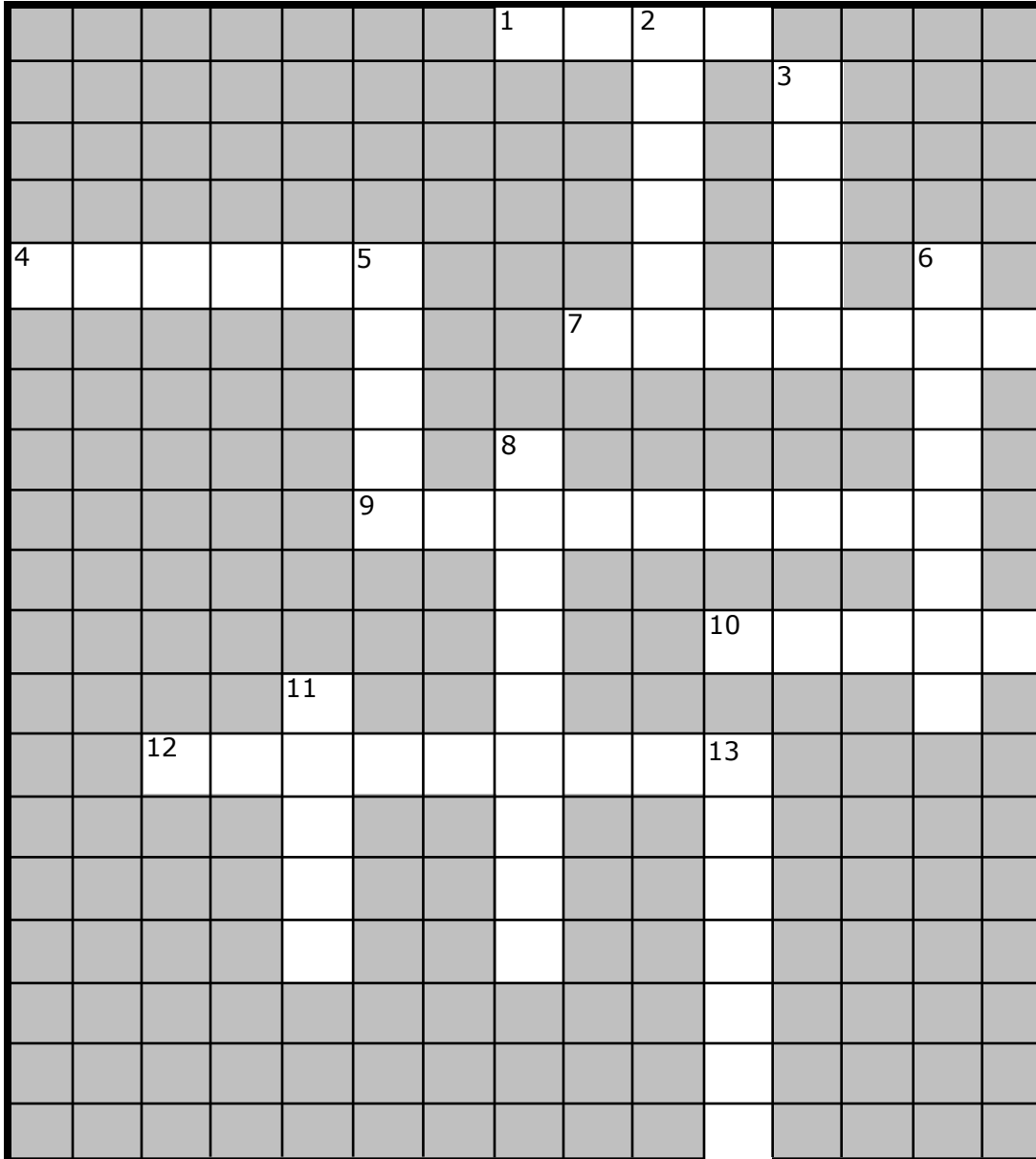
E S Y S E G O L S N L S I N L  
A O Z O A L F N O E N S F U A  
T S N E N O Y A A T E A O K A  
F H T I Y V H T C G W R R E B  
L L U K A E K A R G C R N A A  
P A R K A S O M B R E R O H M  
L A B A A S C F L N R D A A A  
M T A S B N T W U I M K O N E  
C S N O W S H O E S M O D T I  
N H I C M W A U J K I M O N O  
E I L K A B S W E A T E R A N  
T R O S E Q A O A M T L T O G  
R T E O I Z N H N T E L E R Z  
S A G N L N D I S H N S S R D  
E L R S A R A P E Z S C S W W  
S L T I G E L I M C P A H O A  
A U B O O T S F S A R I A K T

## Mmm...,mmm..., good

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Let's eat! There are many delicious foods to eat in this country. The many different people who came here brought their favorite foods. Some are listed below. Use this list to help you fill in the crossword puzzle.

- |            |           |         |          |         |           |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|
| chili      | hamburger | venison | tortilla | hot dog | cheese    |
| gyros      | sushi     | taco    | egg roll | pizza   | spaghetti |
| fried rice |           |         |          |         |           |



### ACROSS CLUES

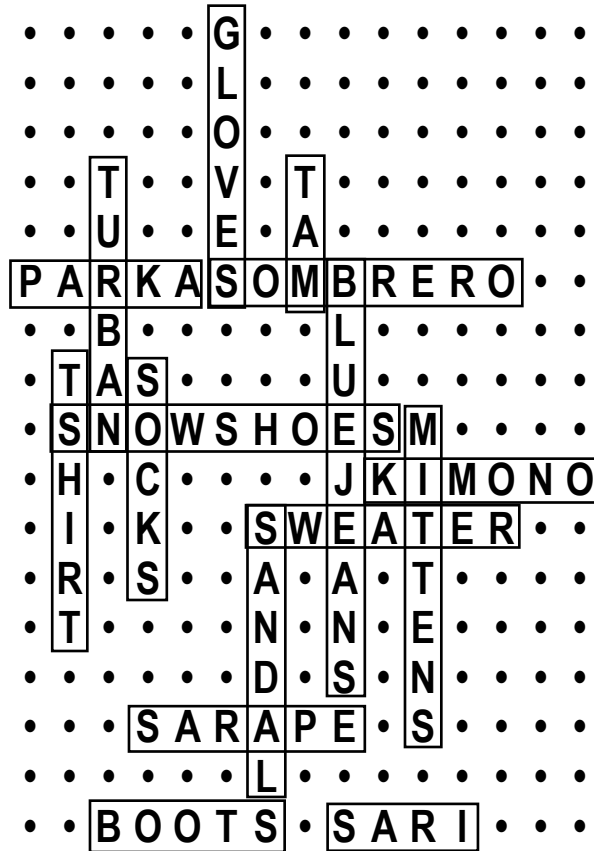
1. Meat in a corn shell
4. Wiener
7. Deer meat
9. Long noodles with sauce
10. Hot, spicy soup
12. Chinese-style rice

### DOWN CLUES

2. Swiss \_\_\_\_\_
3. Japanese-style raw fish
5. Greek sandwich
6. Flour or corn pancake
8. All-American sandwich
11. Flat dough with sauce and cheese
13. Chinese roll with filling

Answers on page 8

Answers to "Let's  
Get Dressed —  
Word Search" (p. 6)



Answers to "Mmm...,  
mmm..., good" (p. 7)





## Let's Party

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*Celebrations of important events and people vary from country to country. As new people come to our country, they bring their celebrations. They also learn about the wonderful holidays of the United States. Using a calendar to help you, fill in the crossword puzzle with holidays that are celebrated in the United States.*

					1				2								
			3														
																4	
					5												
6		7		8		9		10									
11																	
																12	
16																	

### ACROSS CLUES

1. October 12
3. May 5
5. March 17
10. December 26 to January 1
11. April 1
13. June 14
14. First Monday of September
15. February 14
16. July 4

### DOWN CLUES

2. Last Monday of May
4. Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
6. Fourth Thursday of November
7. December 25
8. October 31
9. February 2
12. January 1

Answers on page 12

## Only the Best

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*You don't want just any book, you want a really good book. A book that is interesting and informative. You want an author who knows what he or she is writing about. You approach the library's catalogue, and you stop in your tracks. Where do you begin to find such a book, by such an author? Listed below are authors who have written some of the best books for young people about people of different races and ethnic groups. Find each author in your library's card or on-line catalogue. Write titles of books by each author on the line next to his or her name.*

**Molly Bang** \_\_\_\_\_

**John Bierhorst** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ann Cameron** \_\_\_\_\_

**Virginia Hamilton** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ann Jonas** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gretchen Will Mayo** \_\_\_\_\_

**Walter Dean Myers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allen Say** \_\_\_\_\_

**John Steptoe** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mildred D. Taylor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Laurence Yep** \_\_\_\_\_

*Now you have a great reading list of some of the best books about the many races and groups of people that make our world so wonderful and interesting.*

## What's in a Name

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Many state names come from Native American names or words. Below are some scrambled state names and their Native American meanings. Unscramble the state names, and then fill in the states' nicknames. Almanacs and encyclopedias should help you find state nicknames.

For example: tauh utah                      dwellers in the tops of the mountains                      Beehive State

State	Native American meaning	State Nickname
lisoilni _____	the superior men	_____
iooh _____	something great	_____
sinemonta _____	sky-tinted water	_____
chmigian _____	great lake	_____
cniwoinss _____	gathering of waters	_____
mirosius _____	people of the big canoe	_____
owia _____	beautiful land	_____
ustsamascehts _____	near the great hill	_____
ncttociuicn _____	beside the long tidal river	_____
aabamal _____	vegetation gatherers	_____
ecuyktn _____	place of old fields	_____
ntesenese _____	Tenasie, Cherokee village	_____
aholomka _____	red people	_____
sisimpiissp _____	father of waters	_____
eaxts _____	friends	_____
asnkas _____	people of the south wind	_____
raznoia _____	small spring	_____
akalsa _____	great land	_____

Answers on page 12

Answers to "Let's Party" (p. 9)

						C	O	L	U	M	B	U	S	D	A	Y		
										E								
			C	I	N	C	O	D	E	M	A	Y	O					
										O						M		
						S	T	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	S	D	A	Y
										I							R	
T		C		H		G			K	W	A	N	Z	A	A		D	
H		H		A		R				L							I	
A	P	R	I	L	F	O	O	L	S	D	A	Y					G	
N		I		L		U				A					N		R	
K		S		O		N				Y					E		A	
S		T		W		D									W		S	
G		M		E		H			F	L	A	G	D	A	Y			
I		A		E		O									E			
V		S		N		G			L	A	B	O	R	D	A	Y		
I						D									R			
N						V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	S	D	A	Y
G						Y									D			
															A			
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	D	A	Y				

Answers to "What's in a Name" (p. 11)

Illinois — *Land of Lincoln*

Alabama — *Cotton State*

Ohio — *Buckeye State*

Kentucky — *Bluegrass State*

Minnesota — *Gopher State*

Tennessee — *Volunteer State*

Michigan — *Wolverine State*

Oklahoma — *Sooner State*

Wisconsin — *Badger State*

Mississippi — *Magnolia State*

Missouri — *Show Me State*

Texas — *Lonestar State*

Iowa — *Hawkeye State*

Kansas — *Sunflower State*

Massachusetts — *Bay State*

Arizona — *Grand Canyon State*

Connecticut — *Constitution State*

Alaska — *The Last Frontier*

1. Different peoples' holidays are fun to celebrate. When people from other countries came to this country they brought their special traditions with them. Germans brought the Christmas tree. Mexican Americans brought the piñata. And many African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa. Read about American holiday celebrations from other countries and cultures. Choose one holiday that you like a lot.
  - A) Make a poster that tells all about that holiday and how it is celebrated. Include drawings of special symbols, foods, and customs that go with the holiday. Write a short paragraph on your poster and explain the holiday.
  - B) Make a calendar of the holidays that are celebrated in the United States. Use a yearly calendar to help you.
2. Can you count to ten or say the alphabet in a different language? There are counting and alphabet books that can help. Find a counting or alphabet book that shows numbers or letters in a language different from your own. Try learning to count or say the alphabet in a new language. With your teacher's permission, teach the class what you learn.
3. Many people who have become leaders in this country are African American, Asian, Latino and Native American. Look through your newspaper to find a story about a leader of a different race from your own. He or she may be a congressperson, a governor, a mayor and so on. Imagine this person is running for president of the United States. Write a speech telling why this person would make a great president. Give your speech to your class and see if they agree with you.
4. Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding. Many other types of artwork were brought here by people who came to this country from far away. In your library, find an art or craft book that shows how to do a craft from another country. Read the directions and try making that craft. Display your work and tell your classmates how you made your "masterpiece."
5. A great way to see a new country is to go on a vacation. But if you can't, you can always "travel" with the travel section of a newspaper. Look at the travel section of your newspaper and find a place outside the U.S. you would like to visit. Read about that place and make a list of the things you would like to see and do there. Then pretend you are there, and make a postcard to send to a friend. On the front, draw something you would see in that place. On the back, write a note telling what you are seeing and doing on your "vacation."
6. There are so many different kinds of people living in this country, all you have to do to find foods from many different cultures is go to the supermarket. Make a list of foods from around the world. Look at the food ads in your newspaper. Cut out the names of foods that are considered foreign or "ethnic" foods, such as Jewish, African American, Italian, Chinese, Spanish or French foods. Try some of these foods next time you go to the grocery store.
7. Native American tribes in the northwest part of this country carved giant totem poles to tell stories. Read more about totem poles. Then make your own totem pole. Using stuffed paper bags or cardboard rolls, decorate your totem pole with Native American designs. Have the totem pole tell a story about yourself or your family. Share the story with your class or with friends.
8. Making friends is sometimes hard, especially when you speak a different language. Read a story about a child who is from another country. After reading the story, write down three things you learned about this child. Would you like to make friends with this child? Now write down three things that you would teach your new friend to help him or her make more new friends in this country.
9. Latinos in the U.S. come from many different countries with many different traditions. Make a poster showing some of the many countries that Latinos come from. Show at least five different countries on your poster. For each country, draw a picture of something that is special from that country. For example, you could draw a piñata for Mexico. Use an almanac or encyclopedia to gather interesting facts about the countries you show. Give your poster a title.
10. Many Americans' grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents came to this country from a foreign land. Try to find out where your family came from. Someone in your family will probably know. Find a story or a collection of stories that come from the country or part of the world your family is from. Read one of those stories to a member of your family. Have other members of your family take turns reading some more folktales from the country or part of the world your family came from. Write down what you learned about that country or part of the world from the folktales.
11. When the Pilgrims came to this country, the Native Americans helped them to live. Read a book about the Pilgrims and how the Indians helped them. List three different things that the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims. Draw a picture of a scene showing one way that the Native Americans helped the newcomers.

12. As new people came to America, they named places here after places in their old countries. Look at an atlas and see if you can find at least ten places in the U.S. that were named after foreign places.
  - A) Make a list of these ten places, telling the location of each one.
  - B) Research the foreign places that the U.S. places are named after. What are these places like? Are they anything like the places that have their names in the United States? Make a travel poster telling about one of the foreign places and the place named after it in the United States.
13. Learning a foreign language can be fun. You can begin by reading a book written in two languages. *Uncle Nacho's Hat*, by Harriet Rohmer tells a story in both English and Spanish. *If I Had a Paka; Poems in Eleven Languages* mixes foreign words with English words in the poems it contains. Read a book that has words from a foreign language in it. Make a short dictionary by writing down ten of the foreign words you learn and their English meanings. Draw some pictures to illustrate your dictionary.
14. Paul Goble is an author who writes stories that come from several different American Indian tribes. Find a book by Paul Goble. You might enjoy *The Great Race*. After reading the book, draw a picture that shows the part of the book you liked best.
15. On your own or with a group, make your own alphabet poster that shows foods, fashions, crafts and other things from the different types of people in this country. Search magazines to find ideas that will help you with this very special poster. Illustrate each idea with a picture you draw or cut out from a magazine. Display your poster in your classroom.
16. Many fairy tales were brought to our country by the people who came here from far away. Reread one of your favorite fairy tales.
  - A) Draw a new book cover for your favorite fairy tale showing the part you liked the best.
  - B) Make stick puppets and, with a friend, present a puppet play of your fairy tale to the class.
17. Many cowboys were African Americans. These men helped settle the Wild West. Bill Pickett, Cherokee Bill and Nat Love (Deadwood Dick) are just three of these American heroes. Have your librarian help you find a book about at least one of these cowboys. Read about him with a classmate. Together, think of ten questions you would want to ask this cowboy. Then write the answers you think he would have given to your questions. Choose 'parts' along with your partner — one of you playing the interviewer, the other playing the cowboy. Then perform your "interview" in front of your class.
18. For many years the Cherokee people did not have a written language. Sequoya, a Cherokee leader, decided it was important to have a written language. Read about Sequoya and the alphabet he made for his people. Write down five facts that you learned about Sequoya. A good book about Sequoya is *Ahyoka and the Talking Leaves*, by Peter and Connie Roop.
19. The United States has one of the largest welcome signs in the world. It is the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Find out more about this very important lady.
  - A) Draw an outline of this famous statue and put important facts about the statue inside your outline. How tall is the Statue of Liberty? When was it built? Where did it come from?
  - B) Create a welcome statue for the West Coast. You can draw a picture of a statue that looks like a person or perhaps an animal that would welcome newcomers to this land. Underneath your picture, write a few sentences about why you chose the symbol you did.
20. Great Native American chiefs led their people through good times and bad. Find out about a great chief, then tell the story of your chief in pictures. Make drawings showing the important times of your chief's life.

1. Did you know that the potato chip was invented by an Indian chief, George Crum? Did you know that when you bite into an ice cream cone you are really biting into a Persian pastry transformed to hold ice cream by Ernest Hamwi in 1904? Many foods were influenced by different ethnic groups.
  - A) Create a poster of five “American” foods that had their beginnings in other cultures. Illustrate each food, and write down the country of its origin and how it was “Americanized.”
  - B) Choose an ethnic cookbook and select a recipe from it. Try cooking this recipe and then share the results with friends or with your class.
2. Before Europeans came to this country, many different Native American tribes had established their nations throughout this land. What native tribe or tribes made their home in the state where you live? Research one tribe that once lived in your area. Present an oral report about the tribe. Give the tribe’s name and explain customs the tribe followed. Tell what happened to that tribe as others settled into the area.
3. The railroad that connected the eastern part of this country to the western part was built in large part by Chinese immigrants. These immigrants went through great hardships to complete the railroad. Read about the building of the railroad. Imagine you are a Chinese worker on this railroad. Write a letter home to your family in China describing what your daily life is like, what you do on the job and what you hope to do when the railroad is finished.
4. Every culture and ethnic group has its heroes — people who have accomplished extraordinary things against great odds. Make a list of heroes from your own ethnic group. Pick one who is your personal favorite and make a poster of that person that includes a drawing, a brief biography and the dates that person lived. Show the poster to your class and explain why you chose that person as your hero.
5. Many immigrants came to this country looking for a better life. What immigrants settled in your state? Make an outline of your state and show the different ethnic groups that settled in different parts of the state. Look carefully at the names of cities and geographic sites. How were these names affected by the ethnic groups that settled in those areas? Write down the names of cities and towns that illustrate the ethnic origins of the people who settled in those areas.
6. Latinos are the fastest-growing ethnic group in America. But Latinos come from many different countries with many different traditions.
  - A) Using your newspaper, clip articles about different Latinos and some of the issues they face. Make a scrapbook of your articles called “Latino Heritage.” Create a section for each Latino country.
  - B) After making your scrapbook, write a short essay telling what you have learned about the similarities and differences among different Latino groups.
7. From gospel music to jazz, rap and rock ‘n’ roll, American music owes much to African Americans. Investigate an African American composer or musician and read about his or her life and music. Write a song that tells about the contributions of that person and present it to your class. If possible, play some of the music that person gave to this country.
8. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play Major League baseball in the 20th century. Before that, African Americans played in the Negro Leagues. One of the greatest players in the Negro Leagues was Satchel Paige. Read about both athletes. With a friend, write an “interview” of one of these men. Make a list of ten questions that an interviewer might ask the athlete you choose about his life. Then write down the answers you think he would give. With your friend, perform your “interview” for the class, one person playing the athlete and the other playing the interviewer.
9. The rights of the individual are carefully guarded by the Constitution of the United States. Many great people of color struggled to bring those rights to all people. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Thurgood Marshall are just a few of the people who helped in the fight for civil rights in this country. Read about one of these people or any other person who fought for civil rights, and write a short biography of that person telling what he or she did to bring equality to all people.
10. Learning about the country someone comes from helps us to understand that person better. Many of the “new” immigrants to this country come from Mexico, Central and South America, the West Indies and Asia. Read about one of the countries new immigrants come from.
  - A) Make a travel brochure about that country to help your classmates learn more about it. Include geography, points of interest, climate, daily life and other interesting information in your brochure.
  - B) Make a list of some of the problems in that country that would make a person want to leave for a better life in the U.S.
11. Immigrants have contributed much to the development

- and success of our country. With several friends, learn about the contributions of immigrants from several countries. Find an immigrant who made a contribution to this country in the field of science, education, medicine, politics, sports, or the arts. Give an oral report to your class about this person and what made him or her great.
12. Before the camera was invented, many artists preserved Native American cultures through sketches and paintings. One such artist was George Catlin. Mr. Catlin wanted the world to see the Plains Indians as they really were, so he followed and painted the tribes' daily lives. With the help of the card or online catalogue in your library, find a book about George Catlin in which his paintings are shown.
    - A) Look through the book and select one painting that really interests you. Write down at least five facts about the Indians and their lifestyle that you observe in the painting.
    - B) After studying Mr. Catlin's style, illustrate a scene from your daily life that tells about your lifestyle.
  13. Many authors let us know the cultural heritage of a character by using words from that character's native language. For example, Gary Soto, a Latino author, often uses Spanish words in his stories. We can figure out the meaning of the words from the stories. Select a book in which characters use foreign words. As you read the book, write down the words you discover and their meanings. When you are finished, make a glossary for the book. With your teacher's permission, slip the glossary into the book for use by other classmates.
  14. Langston Hughes was a poet who often wrote about African Americans, their feelings and experiences. Find and read a few of Mr. Hughes's poems or read some poetry of other black poets. Memorize a poem and present it to your class. Ask your class to discuss what they think the poet is trying to say. Books of poetry that contain a number of good poems include: *All the Colors of the Race*, by Arnold Adoff; *The Sky Is Full of Song*, edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins; and *Neighborhood Odes*, by Gary Soto.
  15. Almost every culture has a story that tells how the world was created. Many of these stories are similar. Many use animals as central figures. Read two "creation stories."
    - A) Illustrate each creation story on a piece of paper.
    - B) Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the two stories. *In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World*, by Virginia Hamilton, is a great book about these stories.
  16. Slavery existed in this country until the 1860s. Some slaves escaped with the help of people who established the Underground Railroad. One of these people was Harriet Tubman, who was an escaped slave herself. Read a biography about her. Then create an award that you would give to her. Write a short speech telling why she deserves this award.
  17. Sometimes, people move thousands of miles to a brand new country. Other times they may make a major move within their own country. If you had to move within the country, where would you go? Select a city at least 200 miles from your home. Find out as much about that city or area as you can. Then fold a piece of paper in half. On one side write down all the reasons for moving to the area you chose. On the other side write down reasons for not moving to that area.
  18. Choose a fairy tale or folktale from another country. Read the story to a younger child. Practice by reading the story to yourself. On a map of the world, point out to the child the country this story originally came from. If you have some object from that country, share it with the child. As you read the story, allow time for the child to enjoy the pictures. If there are any foreign words, point these out to the child and help the child understand what the words mean. Come up with ways to read the story that will make it more interesting to him or her.
  19. Squanto, Sakajawea and Pocahontas are just three Native Americans who helped early settlers and pioneers survive in this country. Research one Native American who helped the new settlers. Imagine you are that person and give a speech telling why you helped, what you did to help and how you felt toward these newcomers.
  20. Native Americans show great respect for Earth. In some tribes, Earth is referred to as "Mother." People today are discovering the important lessons we can learn from the Native Americans about respecting our environment. Select an environmental issue you have heard about in the news. Gather facts about the topic you choose from newspapers, nonfiction books and pamphlets. Make a poster about the topic. Include facts, pictures and illustrations that will make people aware of the problem. Also include some solutions to the problem.



**7074P**



Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.  
P.O. Box 52, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1152  
Toll-free 1-800-356-2303  
Or (608) 661-5666

ISBN 1-55933-102-X